

Appl. No. 10/629,136
Amdt. Dated April 4, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 3, 2004
Attorney Docket GT-4751

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.(Currently Amended) A method of continuously seaming wide panels of cured EPDM membrane to form a composite roofing membrane of predetermined width and indefinite length comprising:

providing at least two rolls of wide panels of cured EPDM membrane having longitudinal marginal edges;

feeding the wide panels of cured EPDM membrane from the at least two rolls in a first direction;

simultaneously positioning longitudinal marginal edges of the cured wide panels of EPDM membrane in an overlapping relationship as the cured wide panels of EPDM membrane are fed in the first direction; and

continuously seaming the overlapping cured edges of the EPDM membranes to form a composite roofing membrane.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the overlapping marginal edges of the wide panels of cured EPDM membrane include a preapplied adhesive there between.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of applying an adhesive between the overlapping marginal edges of the wide panels of cured EPDM membrane.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3 wherein the adhesive is selected from thermoplastic polyolefin TPO or thermoplastic elastomer, TPE.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2 wherein the adhesive is selected from TPO thermoplastic polyolefin or thermoplastic elastomer, TPE.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the overlapping cured EPDM membranes are seamed by heating the area of overlap to weld the overlapping cured EPDM membranes and

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then compressing the area of overlap to form a seam.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the overlapping cured EPDM membranes are seamed by applying an adhesive between the overlapping cured EPDM membranes and then compressing the area of overlap to form a seam.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of cutting the composite roofing membrane to a desired length.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

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19.(New) A method for continuously seaming wide panels of cured EPDM membrane to form a composite roofing membrane of predetermined width and indefinite length comprising:

providing at least two supply stations, each supply station including a supply roll of cured EPDM membrane wound on a mandrel;

positioning the at least two supply stations such that a mandrel of a supply station is positioned in overlapping relation to an adjacent mandrel for supplying and simultaneously positioning indefinite length cured EPDM membrane in an overlapping relationship;

providing a seaming station including a frame member supporting a press assembly and a device for seaming the overlapping cured EPDM membranes, the press assembly including opposing pinch rollers; and

continuously compressing the overlapping edges of the cured EPDM membranes as the EPDM membranes pass between the pinch rollers thereby continuously securing the overlapping cured EPDM membranes together to form a continuous seam and a composite roofing membrane of predetermined width and indefinite length.